



Bureau Veritas Certification Holding SAS

ECHEBASTAR INDIAN OCEAN PURSE SEINE SKIPJACK TUNA FISHERY

MSC Surveillance Announcement

14th April 2021

Marine Stewardship Council surveillance announcement

Table 1 – Surveillance announcement

1	Fishery name	
	Echebatar Indian Ocean purse seine skipjack tuna fishery	
2	Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)	
	Target stock:	Skipjack Tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) in the Indian Ocean
	Fishing Area:	FAO 51 & 57
	Fishing method:	Purse Seine including all set types, specifically Fish Aggregating Device (FAD or associated) and free school (FSC or non-associated)
	Fishing operators:	The five purse seiners owned and operated by the Echebatar Group
3	Date certified	Date of expiry
	09 Nov 2018	08 May 2024
4	Surveillance level and type	
	<p>The surveillance level determined in the PCR was 6 (4 on-site surveillance audits). However, due to the current Covid-19 health crisis (preventing travel) and the MSC Derogation 6 on Covid-19 Fishery Conditions Extension, the CAB will be conducting an off-site surveillance audit (see Table 1 of Appendix 1 for more details).</p> <p>In addition, the number of auditors (as explained in the 1st Surveillance audit) has been brought down from 3 (as indicated in the PCR) to 2 (see Table 2 of Appendix 1 for more details).</p>	
5	Surveillance number	
	1st Surveillance	
	2nd Surveillance	X
	3rd Surveillance	
	4th Surveillance	
	Other (Expedited, etc.)	
6	Proposed team leader	
	<p>José Rios, holds a degree in Sea Sciences from the University of Vigo and an MSc in Fisheries and Aquaculture from the University of Wales-Bangor. He has more than 15 years of experience working in fisheries from different angles and places around the world. In 1999 he worked at the ICM-CSIC on trophic ecology of demersal fish species and participated in different research cruises on board the r/v Garcia del Cid. In 2001/02 he was hired by the University of Azores as observer and fisheries inspector assessing an experimental fishing license for Orange roughy. Between 2003 and 2010 he was responsible for designing and monitoring fisheries management plans for several marine resources (clams, cockles and barnacles) for the Regional Fisheries Authority of Galicia (Spain). In 2008-09 he developed and implemented a scientific monitoring scheme for an experimental octopus fishery in the waters of Namibia (IIM-CSIC). Between 2008 and 2012, as part of different projects funded by the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECID), he supported local fisheries and aquaculture management bodies to strengthen organizational and managing capacities of the fishing and rural aquaculture sector in Namibia, Cape Verde, Colombia and Mozambique.</p>	

	<p>During those years, he was also hired by Fundacion Lonxanet to provide technical support on the designing of Marine protected areas together with fishermen in Galicia (Spain), he led a project to improve the monitoring and management of the stalk barnacle fishery in 3 different ports also in Galicia and he completed several Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) Fishsource profiles for different clients (ARVI, Pebagua). Since 2013, as part of the fisheries team of WWF Spain, he promoted different initiatives to improve fisheries management in coastal Spanish fisheries. As the WWF representative in fisheries co-management committees, he took part in the daily management of the following coastal fisheries in the Spanish Mediterranean: Catalan sandeel, Balearic boat seines, and Palamós red shrimp. Since April 2016 he is working for the Bureau Veritas Fisheries Department as fisheries auditor. He is qualified to perform MSC Fisheries assessments and audits as team leader and P2 and P3 expert, and he is also performing as MSC COC auditor. He has participated in the following MSC fisheries assessments or reassessments (most of them as team leader): LFPO pelagic trawl Baltic sprat fishery, Deris, S.A.–Pesca Chile- Antarctic krill fishery, Agarba Spain Barents Sea cod trawl fishery, NZRO Gulf of Riga herring and sprat midwater trawl fishery, Sant Yago TF unassociated purse seine yellowfin tuna fishery and Actemsa-Leal Santos pole and line west Atlantic skipjack tuna fishery. Also, he has acted as team leader and expert in the surveillance audits of the following fisheries: NKF Bothnian Bay vendace trawl fishery, Cantabrian Sea purse seine anchovy fishery, North Atlantic albacore artisanal fishery, Western Asturias octopus traps fishery of artisanal cofradías, Chilean mussel fishery and suspended culture Toralla S.A. and Cultivos Toralla, S.A., Chile squat lobster demersal trawl Camanchaca fishery, Chile squat lobsters and nylon shrimp modified trawl. He has also conducted several MSC pre-assessments and participated in the development and implementation of a number of Bureau Veritas private recognition schemes developed for certain fishery companies. His 7 years in charge of designing and monitoring fisheries management plans for the exploitation different marine resources in Galicia, together with his experience on trophic ecology of demersal fish species in the Mediterranean (ICM-CSIC), his work with the University of Azores assessing an experimental fishing license for Orange roughy in the Azores islands, and his experience designing and monitoring an experimental fishing license for octopus in Namibia (IIM-CSIC) ensure he meets qualification and competency criteria established in PC3 for (i) Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems. Also, his 3 years of experience as a practicing fishery manager as a WWF representative in 3 Mediterranean fisheries, together with his 7 years of experience participating in the implementation of fisheries management plans in Galicia and his experiences assessing experimental fishing licenses in the Azores and Namibia ensure he meets qualification and competency criteria established in PC3 for (ii) Fishery management and operations. He also meets qualification and competency criteria for (iii) Understanding of the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements, and in this case since Echebatar is a Spanish fishing company and half of the certified fleet are flying the Spanish flag, he also meets (iv) current knowledge of the country, language and local fishery context.</p> <p>For this surveillance he will be in charge of Principle 2 and Principle 3 and will be acting as Team Leader. He has not a conflict of interest for this fishery.</p>
7	Proposed team members
	<p>Dr. Carola Kirchner. Dr Kirchner has been working in the field of fisheries for the last 24 years. Her highest qualification is a PhD. Her PhD focussed on the population dynamics and stock assessment of a linefish species. She also completed her MBA part-time through the University of Cape Town. Her research thesis focused on the Namibian hake fishery, where she not only indicated areas of resource rent loss, but also presented a new method of providing bio-economic advice to the fishing industry and management. Included in the thesis was an evaluation of Namibia’s post-independence fisheries policies. Dr Kirchner worked for the Ministry of Fisheries in Namibia for 18 years, where she was responsible for the stock assessment and management advice for most commercial species (eg. Hake, Horse mackerel and Sardine). These fisheries differ vastly, from long-lived species (Orange roughy) to the short-lived Sardine. Also, different gear types were used between these fisheries; bottom trawl, purse-seine and handline. Dr Kirchner has over the years built up international relationships, for example, she was involved in the stock assessment and management of southern Atlantic Albacore tuna through ICCAT. Further, she worked for two years in the stock assessment and modelling section of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). There, her main role was to support the Parties of the Nauru agreement (PNA) members to maintain the compliance to the MSC certification, by evaluating reference points and harvest control rules. In addition, she was working on a regional bio-economic model that aims to evaluate and optimize the various fishing activities and includes all four major tuna resources in the Pacific as in Skipjack, Yellowfin, Bigeye and Albacore tuna.</p> <p>Her 18 years at the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Namibia and her work at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community ensure that she meets the qualification and competency criteria established in PC3 on (i) fish stock assessment, (ii) fish stock biology and (iii) fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystem. Furthermore, her experience in Namibian fisheries administration supports the qualification and competency criteria established in PC3 for (iv) fishery management and operations.</p>

	For this surveillance she will be in charge of Principle 1. She has not a conflict of interest for this fishery.
8	Audit/review time and location
	The remote audit is going to be undertaken during the week of the 17th of May 2021 . Skype meetings or conference calls will be organised with the stakeholders.
9	Assessment and review activities
	<p>The team will assess the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory framework and fishery management system (objectives, mechanisms for decision-making, monitoring, control, inspection, evaluation), including compliance of the certified fleet. ; • Changes affecting the 'management loop' (outcome, management, information) assessed in the initial certification process for the certified species and the other species impacted by the fishery, as well as for marine habitats and ecosystems impacted by the fishery. • Changes within the fishery which may impact traceability, focusing on the segregation MSC product from non-MSC product • Fishery performance in relation to the condition of certification and recommendations, verify whether progress is "on target" and re-score if applies; <p>And will perform the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference Call with representatives of the client group; • Actively seek the views of other relevant stakeholders
10	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>Bureau Veritas encourages that stakeholders interested in scheduling a meeting to provide the following details:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Your name and contact details b) Your relation with the fishery c) Issues you would like to discuss d) Where and when are you available for a meeting (during the week of the 17th of May 2021) <p>In order to make the necessary adjustments on the scheduled agenda of the assessment team, this information should be sent to the contact details provided below before the 13th of May 2021 at 5 PM UTC. Written information can be provided to the assessment team as an alternative, or in addition, to a meeting. If written information will be provided, please use the msc-template-for-stakeholder-input-into-surveillance-audits-v1-0 (click here to download it).</p> <p>Besides, Bureau Veritas encourage stakeholders to provide any information they might consider relevant in relation to the status of the target fish stock, ecosystem interactions, fishery management practices and/or progress on existing conditions/recommendations. Check at the MSC website the guide for stakeholder's engagement in fishery assessments:</p> <p>- Stakeholder's Guide and Template for stakeholder's inputs available here: https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment</p> <p>Please send your comments to the contact details provided right below.</p> <p>Submitted by Gemma Quilez Contact email: Gemma.Quilez@bureauveritas.com</p> <p>Date: 14^h March 2021</p>

Appendix 1: Surveillance frequency - if amended since PCDR

The surveillance level determined in the PCR was 6 (4 on-site surveillance audits). However, due to the current Covid-19 health crisis (preventing travel) and the MSC Derogation 6 on Covid-19 Fishery Conditions Extension (in force since 28th of March 2021) that will apply to all but one of the conditions opened for this fishery, the CAB will be conducting an off-site visit for the current (2nd) surveillance audit, hence changing the surveillance level from 6 to 5 (3 on-site and one off-site surveillance audits) (Table 1).

In addition, the number of auditors (as explained in the 1st Surveillance audit) was brought down from 3 (as indicated in the PCR) to 2 and has been kept with 2 auditors (see Table 2).

Table 1. Fishery surveillance program

Surveillance level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Level 5	On-site surveillance audit	Off-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit & re-certification site visit

Table 2. Surveillance level rationale

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
1	On-site	2 auditors	FCP 7.28.6.1 states that in the initial certification period, the number of auditors for surveillance activities shall be at least 2. There is no requirement on including 3 auditors in the team as far the selected team fulfils the qualification and competency criteria in table PC3 (FCP v.2.2). The team selected by BV meets those requirements as stated in Table 1 –Surveillance announcement-.
2	Off-site	2 auditors	FCP 7.28.6.1 states that in the initial certification period, the number of auditors for surveillance activities shall be at least 2. There is no requirement on including 3 auditors in the team as far the selected team fulfils the qualification and competency criteria in table PC3 (FCP v.2.2). The team selected by BV meets those requirements as stated in Table 1 –Surveillance announcement-.
3	On-site	2 auditors	FCP 7.28.6.1 states that in the initial certification period, the number of auditors for surveillance activities shall be at least 2. There is no requirement on including 3 auditors in the team as far the selected team fulfils the qualification and competency criteria in table PC3 (FCP v.2.2). The team selected by BV meets those requirements as stated in Table 1 –Surveillance announcement-.
4	On-site	3 auditors	No amendment since the PCR since the site visit of the last surveillance audit will be joined with the site visit for the reassessment of the fishery.